

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02009 060926Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----082421 061242Z /50
R 060715Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8597
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2009

EXDIS

PRETORIA FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ZA, US
SUBJ: ZAMBIA-US RELATIONS: ZAMBIAN REQUEST FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE

1. WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE ZAMBIANS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL INQUIRE ABOUT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S REQUEST FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE. OUR REPLY SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WAS SAID ON THIS SUBJECT DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRIVATE MEETING WITH KAUNDA. WE ASSUME THAT REPLY WOULD COVER SUCH POINTS AS:
1) COMMERCIAL SALES POSSIBILITIES; 2) OUR READINESS TO ENCOURAGE THIRD COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE ARMS; AND 3) WILLINGNESS ON OUR PART TO SEEK A DETERMINATION AS TO ZAMBIA'S ELIGIBILITY UNDER FMS. ON THIS LAST POINT, SENATOR CLARK ASSURED AMBASSADOR LOW THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A DETERMINATION IF HE WERE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE.

2. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SOME MOVEMENT IN RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S REQUEST FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE USEFUL. THE PROSPECT OF ARMS ASSISTANCE SHOULD REASSURE KAUNDA THAT WE WILL NOT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE EXTEND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIA. IT ALSO SHOULD HELP TO DISSUADE KAUNDA FROM TURNING TO THE CUBANS FOR
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ASSISTANCE.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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